

Charge for the Vocational Education Advisory Committee

The Vocational Education Advisory Committee will be an ad hoc committee, comprised of five members, including a selectperson, appointed by the Board of Selectmen, and serving for the period July 20, 2015 to June 30, 2016. The Committee's mission is to research, evaluate, analyze and recommend the best option or options for Vocational Technical Education that are both academically and financially appropriate for the Town of Boxborough and its students.

The Committee shall enumerate the various factors considered and develop a framework for analysis. The evaluation factors shall support assessments that are both quantitative and qualitative.

Possible outcomes include the following:

1. Continue membership in MMRSD under the current regional agreement
2. Continue membership in MMRSD under a revised agreement with no change in member towns
3. Continue membership in MMRSD under a revised agreement with a change in member towns
4. Withdraw from MMRSD
 - a) Send students to MMRSD under a non-member agreement
 - b) Join another Vocational Technical Education district if that is an option available to the Town
 - c) Permit students to select from any vocational technical school in Massachusetts, including MMRSD

Factors to be considered by the Committee:

1. Develop a comparative evaluation table summarizing the factors that will be used to inform Boxborough's decision. The Committee shall meet with the BOS to review, discuss and reach an agreement on the evaluation. The criteria should include:
 - a. Quality and fit of the Vocational Technical school district to Boxborough student needs.
 - b. Expected costs of becoming an out-of district sending community. Include both tuition and transportation costs and expected aid for both - projections for 5 years, if possible.
 - c. Pros/cons or risks specific to any of the target districts, as opposed to general risk of becoming a sender. For example, some district(s) may be projecting an enrollment squeeze.
2. What are the known and unknown consequences and costs of not belonging to a specific Vocational Technical Education district? What are the downsides or risks? What statutes and DESE rules will apply? What is known or expected about the general landscape that likely would apply in say 3-5 years?
3. Consequences and costs of sending students to more than one district.
4. What are the options or recommendations for administering a Vocational Technical Education program if the Town were to send students out of district?
5. Would it be advisable to enter into IMAs with any of the possible districts if such are available? What do we know about the likely terms of such IMAs based on any such existing today?
6. What happens to Boxborough students enrolled at MMRSD at the time of separation? Would they be guaranteed continued enrollment until they graduate?
7. Once accepted at a given district school, would Boxborough's tuition students be guaranteed a seat through graduation?
8. What is the impact on post-graduate options?
9. Should Boxborough vote to allow the withdrawal of Wayland or any other member town?